

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:)
Ehling, et al.)
Serial No.: to be determined)
Filed: 08/02/2001)
For: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR)
CONDITIONING COMMINUTED)
TOBACCO MATERIAL)

#² fda
Re Amend 1A
11-20-01

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please enter the enclosed Preliminary Amendment that is respectfully submitted to
append the claims in the above referenced application.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the following new claims.

16 (New) A device for conditioning tobacco material, comprising:

- a chamber having an inlet and an outlet;
- a first wheel sluice at said inlet and a second wheel sluice at said outlet;
- at least one water vapor nozzle located within said chamber;
- said chamber maintaining a hyperbaric pressure of more than 1 bar.

17. (New) The device for conditioning tobacco material of claim 16 wherein said chamber is